

Serial No.: 10/812,467

Filing Date: 3/30/2004

Office Action Date: 10/31/2007

Response Date: 2/29/2008

III. AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

None.

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IV. REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This response is being submitted subsequent to an Advisory Action issued on 02/04/2008 and the Final Office Action dated 10/31/2007.

This application has been the subject of two interviews subsequent to the Advisory Action with the Examiner, summaries of which are set forth herein below.

Applicant's requested amendments in the Response After Final Office Action submitted on 12/20/2007 were not entered as indicated in the Advisory Action. Therefore, all amendments to the claims in the Listing of Claims contained in the present response are set forth relative to the status of the claims effective as of the Final Office Action. Subsequent to the Final Office Action, claims 1, 10, 11, 13-18, and 27-39 remain under consideration. Claims 1, 10, 11, 13-17, and 27-36 stand rejected. Claims 18 and 39 stand allowed. Claims 37 and 38 were objected to.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes and appreciates recognition in the Final Office Action of the subject matter of claims 37 and 38 as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 37 and 38 have been canceled and rewritten - claim 37 as an independent claim 40 including all limitations of claim 1 and claim 37, and claim 38 as claim 41 depending from claim 40.

Claims 27-36 have been canceled and rewritten as new claims 42-51, respectively, and now depend directly or indirectly from new allowable claim 40 with additional limitations.

Therefore, new claims 40 and 41 fully comply with the requirement of form expressly set forth in the subject office action and are in condition for allowance. Claims 42-51 depend

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directly or indirectly from allowable claim 40 with additional limitations and therefore are similarly in condition for allowance.

Interview Summaries

On February 11, 2008 an interview was conducted with the primary issue of discussion including the status of claims 18 and 39-51 (as set forth in the present Listing of Claims). A conclusion was reached that based upon previous allowance of claims 18 and 39, based upon previous objection to claims 37 and 38 and the subsequent incorporation of the subject matter of these claims and resolution of the reasons for objection as claims 40 and 41, and renumbering and amended dependency of claims 27-36 (formerly dependent upon claim 1) as claims 42-51 (now dependent upon claim 40), that claims 18 and 39-51 are allowable.

On February 12, 2008 an interview was conducted with the primary issue of discussion including the status of claim 10 and claims dependant thereon. No conclusion was reached, and claim 10 stands rejected. Discussion was conducted, and a potential for amendment to claim 10 to make the subject matter allowable was concluded as possible. As a result of these discussions, applicant has cancelled claims 10-11 and 13-17 without prejudice to subsequently filing a continuation application.

Summary

Claims 1-17 and 19-38 are canceled. Claims 18 and 39-51 stand in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

Applicant believes claims 18 and 39-51 stand in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests that these claims be allowed to proceed to issue.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the phone number appearing below if any questions remain subsequent to considering this response.

Any fees associated with this response may be charged to General Motors Deposit Account No. 07-0960.

Respectfully submitted,

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